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"The Person Who Is Not Loyal to the Memory of His Ancestors  
Deserves Himself to Be Forgotten."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

# Second, Third and Fourth Reunions

of the

## Briggs Association in America



### Officers, 1917

President	-	B. W. Briggs, 1901 S. 16th St., Omaha, Neb.
Vice President	-	Benj. B. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.
Secretary	-	Seth Dean, Glenwood, Ia.
Treasurer	-	Arthur Waite, Decatur, Ill.
Historian	-	R. L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt.



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The fifth Reunion will be held in 1918, the time and place  
to be named by the President of the Association.

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Dr. C. W. Richmond  
Jan 12, 1927

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
**SECOND BIENNIAL REUNION**  
of the  
DESCENDANTS OF CAPT. EPHRAIM BRIGGS  
Held at  
Barnard, Vt., July 14-15-16, 1911.

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In accordance with arrangements previously made by resident parties, the following named met in reunion at the Cliflin summer cottage on the border of Silver Lake at the Town of Barnard, Vermont, on July 14, 1911, viz:

Paul C. Tinkham, of Rochester, Vt.  
Jessie C. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Mary A. Briggs, Rochester, Vt.  
Lelia D. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Hattie E. Waite, Barre, Vt.  
Susan J. Jones, Barre, Vt.  
Carolyn B. Field, St. Louis, Mo.  
Dr. Edward F. Jones, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Jane Briggs Packard, Bloomington, Ill.  
Rhoda Briggs Burt, Potsdam, N. Y.  
Clarence E. Blackmer, St. Louis, Mo.  
Rosie T. Dean, Barnard, Vt.  
Daulera A. Harrington, Barnard Vt.  
Martha E. Harrington, Barnard, Vt.

The general purpose of the reunion being the making of new, or renewing the former acquaintance of relatives near and distant, and the enjoyment of the pleasures of a summer outing at the Town of Barnard, near which the ancestors of most of those attending had resided for many years, emigrating there from other New England colonies in pioneer days while Vermont, now a wealthy and prosperous state, was a waif, seemingly, claimed in part by New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts and each immigrant doing his or her part in moulding the policy that has made the now great Commonwealth of Vermont one of the best states in our Glorious Union.

The program, largely an informal matter, under the direction of the President, Mrs. Hattie E. Waite, partook mostly of social pleasures, visiting places of interest in the vicinity and particularly the old Briggs farm, and also the Crowell farm, places originally owned by their ancestors. Letters were read from a number of members and parties who were unable to attend, anecdotes were related and interesting stories of personal experience of members and reminis-

cences of "ye olden times" helped to enliven the spirit of the occasion.

A visit to Barnard Cemetery, where many of the early settlers of the town are buried, recalled memories of by-gone days. It appearing that the monuments now marking the graves of Capt. Briggs and Asa Whitcomb were in need of repair and resetting, arrangements for having this work done at the expense of the Briggs Association were made and the work promptly done.

On Sunday, July 16, most of the members present attended the Barnard Universalist church, of which Capt. Ephraim and his wife, Rhoda Whitcomb Briggs, were charter members at its organization in 1809. As the church organization has had a continuous existence through the intervening years, the old building almost seemed to speak to the visitors and bid them keep in memory the strong Christian faith and sterling character of their ancestors.

The following were elected officers of the Briggs Association for the term of two years, viz:

President—Mrs. Hattie E. Waite, of Barre, Vt.

Secretary—Mrs. Carolyn B. Field, St. Louis, Mo.

Treasurer—Mrs. Jennie B. Packard, Bloomington, Ill.

Historians—Mrs. Jennie B. Packard, Bloomington, Ill.; Mrs. Rhoda B. Burt, Potsdam, N. Y.

A resolution was then passed to hold a third reunion in 1913 at such time and place as the president shall find most convenient for all parties.

After which the reunion was declared ended and the parties returned to their homes.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
**THIRD BIENNIAL REUNION**  
of the  
DESCENDANTS OF CAPT. EPHRAIM BRIGGS  
Held at  
Barnard, Vt., August 15-16-17, 1913.

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The following named parties attending, viz:

Hattie E. Waite, Barre, Vt.  
Susan J. Jones, Barre, Vt.  
Dr. H. N. Waite, Johnson, Vt.  
R. L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt.  
Mrs. R. L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt.  
Dena Richmond, Rutland, Vt.  
George W. Briggs, Lebanon, N. H.  
Rhoda Burt, Potsdam, N. Y.  
Jane Briggs Packard, Bloomington, Ill.  
Carolyn B. Field, St. Louis, Mo.  
Clarence E. Blackmer, St. Louis, Mo.  
Arthur Wait, Decatur, Ill.  
Erma Wait, Decatur, Ill.  
Ines L. Lease, Waterbury, Vt.  
Donald Lease, Waterbury, Vt.  
Julia Curtis, Newark, N. J.  
Paul C. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Jessie C. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Lelia B. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Seth Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Annah E. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Harvey Dean, Pacific Junction, Ia.  
Albert Aiken, Barnard, Vt.  
Van Lora Harrington, Barnard, Vt.  
Martha J. Harrington, Barnard, Vt.  
Harry Perkins, Barnard, Vt.  
Augusta Perkins, Barnard, Vt.  
Julia A. Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Ellen Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Mrs. Chester Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Phyllis Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Chester E. Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Mary A. Briggs, Rochester, Vt.

Accommodations for the party had been secured at B. C. Hawthorn's, about one mile from the village, an ideal location overlooking

Silver Lake, village, and surrounding country, and Thursday, the 14th, was spent in greeting and becoming acquainted with old and new members. Letters of greeting from absent members, who were unable to be present, were read by the President.

Friday morning at 10 A. M. the meeting was opened by our President, Mrs. Hattie E. Waite, singing of song ("Old Lang Syne") words composed (or remodelled) by some of the members and sung to the tune of "Old Lang Syne."

Should our old Grandsires be forgot  
And never brought to mind;  
Should our old Grandma's be forgot  
And days of Old Lang Syne.

Chorus:

For days of Old Lang Syne, my dear,  
For old Lang Syne  
We'll take a cup of kindred love,  
For Old Lang Syne.

We all have come from far and near  
For this, the New Lang Syne;  
We bring a greeting warm and dear  
For this glad summer time.

We all have wandered o'er the hills  
That knew our Grandsires time;  
We've bridged the miles between our homes  
For the sake of Old Lang Syne.

And here's a hand, my cousins dear;  
Gi'e us a hand of thine.  
We'll take the cup of kindred love.  
For Old Lang Syne.

The adopting of the Constitution and making it a permanent organization was discussed and a committee appointed, consisting of Seth Dean, Harvey Dean and Rollin L. Richmond. Reading of the Constitution and by-laws by Rollin Richmond. Open for discussion. Motion made and carried that the paper be taken up by sections.

Friday, the 16th. Called to order by the President at 10 A. M. After much discussion, changing and amending the constitution. The Constitution was adopted, the Association to be known as the "Briggs Association in America." The first idea of a Brigg's association was formed by Jessie Tinkham and Seth Dean and it was suggested that their names come first on list of charter members. Friday P. M. a trip was made to the old home of Ephraim Briggs. We were very cordially welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, present occupants of the home, and shown about the home, and told of various changes that had been made in the home. Interesting papers of the Briggs Genealogy was read by Seth Dean and others, near the spot where the first log cabin was built and where our Great Grandfather took

his bride, Rhoda Whitcomb, to live. A poem, representing the old home speaking to us, was composed and read by Mrs. Jessie Tinkham; responded to very nicely by Donald Lease, a 12-year-old lad and the first son of the seventh generation. A goodly number of the party took the trip to the old "Pine Tree," of early fame, where our ancestors used to play house and have their dinner parties; also up the hill to the famous "old spring" and drank of its pure cold water, which seemed to put new life in us all. A few of the octogenarians who preferred to accept the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Chapman to remain in rocking chairs on the broad piazza never will know what they missed and never can be told, as it must be seen to be known and appreciated.

Saturday, the 16th. Meeting called to order at 10 A. M. The report of the nominating committee was read by the chairman, presenting the following names for election: For President, George W. Briggs of Lebanon, New Hampshire; Vice-President, Harvey Dean, of Glenwood, Iowa; Secretary, Seth Dean of Glenwood, Ia.; Treasurer, Arthur Waite of Decatur, Ill.; Historian, Rollin L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt. Motion was made and carried that we vote collectively. Motion made by Mrs. Grace Richmond, seconded by Paul Tinkham, that officers named by nominating committee be elected unanimously. Carried. Secretary's report read and approved and placed on record. Treasurer reported \$2.65 expended on repairing the tombstone of Asa Whitcomb, \$4.25 expended on printing matter, balance in Treasury \$10.10. Moved and seconded by Seth and Harvey Dean that report be accepted and placed on record. Carried. A memorial report of the death of two of our number, who have been laid to rest since our last reunion (Mrs. Angeline Jones and Mrs. Rosie Wood Dean), was read by Seth Dean. On motion made and carried, report was placed on record. The President reported on the condition of the tombstones of Elijah Briggs and his sister, Reliance, who are buried in Berkley, Mass. (Hattie Wait, Jessie Tinkham and Susan Jones had visited Berkley in the early summer and found the burial places of Gt. Gt. Grandfather Jonathan and Gt. Gt. Grandfather Elijah and Reliance Briggs.) Motion was made and carried, by Seth Dean and Arthur Waite, that an investigating committee be appointed and \$50.00, more or less, as needed, be expended on repairing and fixing up the tombstones of our ancestors. Adjourned for dinner, after which one hour was spent in giving toasts around the table. Seth Dean, the toastmaster, made some interesting remarks followed by George Briggs, Harvey Dean, Clarence Blackmer and others, all remarks relating to the Briggs family. The meeting was called to order at 3 P. M. Reading of the Constitution as amended, for the benefit of those members who were not present when first read. Payment of dues then in order. The dues were fixed at \$1.00 each per year. There were 34 members present, 7 states represented, doubling the number of our reunion of 1911. This, with the \$10.10 in Treasury will give our Treasurer a good start and we hope for great success. Historical sketches of the various branches of the Briggs family were read by Mrs. Rhoda Burt, Rollin L. Richmond

and Jennie B. Packard; the first, sketches in the life of Asa Whitcomb and Asa Barnard Briggs, the last a sketch of the life of her father, Josephus Briggs. Rollin Richmond's "Tree of the Briggs'" was very interesting.

A poem composed and read by Mrs. C. B. Field:

#### **Greetings from Vermont**

From the hills and valleys of Old Vermont,  
From loyal hearts, and true,  
From fertile farms, and maple groves,  
Come cordial greetings to you.

From the broad Connecticut, on the east,  
To Lake Champlain, on the west,  
A wish goes forth from the Green Mountain State  
That Fortune give you her best.

To all the friends who are gathered here,  
We bid you welcome, with right good cheer;  
And may the week, ere it shall be done,  
Be fully enjoyed by every one.

We are met together, a reunion to hold  
Of the great Briggs family, of whom all have been told  
How they cleared the forests, and made the town,  
And built their homes and tilled the ground.

When we look this country o'er  
And see what they have done,  
It ought to fill with pride  
The hearts of every one.

So sink or swim, live or die,  
Let us stand by the Briggs's, forever and aye;  
And every other summer, we hope to see  
All of the friends, in the good town of B.

Where our ancestors lived and raised their flock  
Of men and women—a grand old stock;  
Men and women sturdy and strong,  
Striving for right, and shunning the wrng.

As for ambition, energy, endurance and wit,  
They tell me the Briggs were full of it.  
And as the ages roll along and our burden of life laid down,  
May our descendants pick up the work and carry it on and on.

Enjoy the work as we have done  
And work in harmony, every one.

May they cherish the memory of those gone before  
And be true to each other forever more.

Over the road and up the hill  
Lieth a village, white and still;  
The marble doors are always shut;  
You cannot enter, hall, or hut;

And in that village, the records say,  
Some of our ancestors are laid away.  
Let us so live our lives, that, when laid to rest,  
Our descendants can truly say, "They did their best;"

And when the final summons comes  
To leave this earthly din.  
May we meet Saint Peter at the gate, who will say:  
"Thou hast done well, enter thou in."

Motto chosen: "The person who is not loyal to the memory of his ancestors, deserves himself to be forgotten." The installation of officers now took place and the newly elected officers were marshaled in by the retiring officers. All through the reunion by the way of relieving the business part, at intervals, many stories and jokes were exchanged and extracts from the diary of Elijah Briggs in 1764 was read by R. L. Richmond and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This diary was in the possession of a party in Berkley and kindly loaned to us.

One very amusing feature was that of a mock court trial, and very ably rendered by the judge, George Briggs, Sheriff Paul Tinkham, Lawyer Seth Dean, Prisoner Harvey Dean and Accomplice Rollin Richmond. It afforded great amusement for all present. No further business coming before the meeting, we adjourned until some time and place to be designated by the executive board and of which all members shall receive notice. Camp broke up Sunday A. M., the 17th, part of the members going to church and part leaving for their homes, followed on Monday by the rest, and the Briggs reunion of 1913 was a thing of the past.

—Carolyn Briggs Field, Secretary.





1, Harvey Dean; 2, Paul Tinkham; 3, Seth Dean; 4, Geo. W. Briggs; 5, Arthur Wait; 6, Donald Lease; 7, Dr. H. N. Wait; 8, R. L. Richmond.



1, Mrs. J. C. Tinkham; 2, Miss Lelia D. Tinkham; 3, Mrs. Julia A. Curtis; 4, Mrs. Seth Dean; 5, Miss Erma Wait; 6, Miss Mary A. Briggs; 7, \_\_\_\_\_; 8, Mrs. Carolyn Field; 9, Mrs. Jane B. Packard; 10, Mrs. Inez Lease.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
**FOURTH REUNION OF THE BRIGGS ASSO-  
CIATION IN AMERICA**

Held at

Rochester, Vt., August 9-10-11, 1916.

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The session was called to order by the President, George W. Briggs, Wednesday, August 9th, at 2 P. M., with the following officers present, viz: Harvey Dean, vice president; Seth Dean, secretary; R. L. Richmond, historian. The treasurer, Arthur Wait, being absent on account of illness in his family. The register showed the following members attending:

Geo. W. Briggs, Lebanon, N. H.  
Mrs. Jennie B. Packard, Bloomington, Ill.  
Rollin L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt.  
Mary A. Briggs, Rochester, Vt.  
B. B. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Mary W. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Seth Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Annah E. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Harvey Dean, Pacific Junction, Ia.  
Paul C. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Jessie C. Tinkham, Rochester, Vt.  
Mary A. Briggs, Rochester, Vt.  
Lelia T. Miller, Rochester, Vt.  
Dr. H. N. Waite, Johnson, Vt.  
Carolyn B. Field, St. Louis, Mo.  
Hattie E. Waite, Barre, Vt.  
Susan J. Jones, Barre, Vt.  
Rhoda B. Burt, Potsdam, N. Y.  
Ellen L. Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Julia A. Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Mary J. Aiken, E. Braintree, Mass.

Visiting guests:

Norman Baker, Norwalk, O.  
Celia Baker, Norwalk, O.

The minutes of the third reunion were then read by the secretary. Letters from absent members expressing their interest in the Association and regretting their inability to attend, were much appreciated by those present.

The President then gave an oral address full of good suggestions

for the future of the association, which was well received by all present.

The report of the Secretary was then read showing a present membership of thirty-five, and was ordered placed on file.

The Treasurer's report having been mailed to the secretary was then read and on motion both the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were referred to a committee consisting of Hattie E. Waite and Mary Briggs for auditing.

The attention of the president having been called to the fact that several members of the association had died since the last meeting, B. B. Dean, Jessie Tinkham and Carolyn Field were named as a Committee on Necrology.

The regular business of the day having been concluded, a member presented the following: Whereas, it appearing that a traditional belief is current among the members that Gabriel was one of the ancestral Briggs, the matter was by unanimous vote at this time referred to the Historian, who successfully established that fact by undisputed written evidence in his possession.

After which the business session was closed to permit the members to accept an invitation to a supper given by the ladies of the Rochester Universalist church, which was greatly appreciated by all.

Wednesday evening was passed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tinkham in social visit and at this time the Historian made a report on some genealogical facts of interest to the Briggs family. The report was approved.

Thursday August 10, 1916.

The Association met and was called to order by the President at 10 A. M., at the Pierce residence, the present building occupying the site of the former home and store of E. D. Briggs, for many years Rochester's leading merchant. The old store was destroyed by fire February 11, 1914.

The Auditing Committee now presented its report, viz:  
To the Briggs Association:

We, the Auditing Committee, report that we have examined the reports of the secretary and the treasurer as filed and find them correct; and that the treasurer has collected from all sources \$63.09 and has paid out \$18.00, leaving a balance in his hands of \$45.09. We find that the secretary has collected from membership fees \$3.00, and has paid out for current expenses per bills \$6.00, showing a balance due him of \$3.00. We recommend the report be approved.

Hattie E. Waite, Mary A. Briggs, Carolyn B. Field, Committee.

On motion, the report of the committee was approved and ordered put on record.

The Executive Committee now made its report, as follows, viz:  
To the members of the Briggs Association in America:

Your Executive Committee report that we find the Association to be a very much alive organization in spirit and acts, if not unwieldy in numbers, and we believe it has a useful mission to fill. In the

matter of unfinished business we find that the matter of repair of the tombstones of Elijah and Reliance Briggs, provided for at the third reunion has not yet been carried out and we recommend that it be referred to the incoming Executive Committee for their action. We find no other unfinished business from the last reunion.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Briggs, Harvey Dean, Seth Dean, Committee.

On motion the report was received and ordered of record.

The following resolution was then presented and on motion passed unanimously, viz:

WHEREAS, Information comes to us that there is illness in the family of one of our esteemed members, Fao Wait, of Decatur, Ill., with a possibility of the disease appearing in the family of our Treasurer, Arthur Wait, preventing the attendance of these families in this reunion. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of this Association, that our sympathy be and is hereby extended to these families and the hope that the ill ones may speedily recover, and the Secretary be and is hereby instructed to convey this message to the parties.

The following was then presented and on motion passed, and the Secretary instructed to notify Mr. Briggs of our action, viz:

Whereas, We learn that Mr. Charles H. Briggs of Minneapolis, Minn., is now engaged in the compilation of a genealogical history of the Briggs families in America and believing this to be both a necessary and a meritorious work requiring much study and research as well as expense in getting the facts together and publishing the same, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Briggs Association assembled in its fourth reunion at Rochester, Vt. on August 10, 1916, that we approve of this work and commend it to our members and recommend that individually they render Mr. Briggs all assistance possible in securing reliable data for this history.

The Secretary at this time presented the following list of names of parties who made application for membership in the Association, viz:

Benj. W. Briggs, Omaha, Neb.  
Ephraim Briggs, Fort Dodge, Kan.  
Mary Briggs, Fort Dodge, Kan.  
Percy R. Blackmer, St. Louis, Mo.  
L. G. Blackmer, St. Louis, Mo.  
John E. Briggs, Iowa City, Ia.  
Ida J. Briggs, Glenwood, Ia.  
Grace M. Waite, Barre, Vt.  
Louis Briggs Jones, Providence, R. I.  
Ida R. Davis, E. Braintree, Mass.  
Caroline W. Berry, E. Braintree, Mass.  
Leslie Dean Pierce, Rochester, Vt.  
Benjamin B. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.

Mary W. Dean, Glenwood Ia.  
Henry H. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Mary P. Dean, Glenwood, Ia.  
Doris Briggs, Deerfield, Mass.  
Guy W. Briggs, Deerfield, Mass.  
Helen S. Briggs, Deerfield, Mass.  
Mary J. Aiken, E. Braintree, Mass.

On motion the parties were each unanimously elected to membership.

The report of the Nominating Committee was now presented, being as follows, viz:

To the Briggs Association:

Your committee nominate and recommend the following named parties for officers of the Association for the next biennial period, viz:

For President—B. W. Briggs of Omaha, Neb.  
For Vice-President—Benj. B. Dean of Glenwood, Ia.  
For Secretary—Seth Dean of Glenwood, Ia.  
For Treasurer—Arthur Waite of Decatur, Ill.  
For Historian—R. L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt.

Respectfully submitted,

P. C. Tinkham, Rhoda Burt, Julia A. Pierce.

On motion the report was received.

A motion was then made with second and carried that the rules requiring a separate vote on each candidate be suspended and that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee be instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of the members present for the parties recommended. And the same was then done.

The meeting was then adjourned to permit the members to dine and then go on an excursion trip provided by the local members, to visit places of interest in the vicinity.

No session was held in the afternoon.

Called to order at 8 P. M. at the home of Mrs. Pierce. Moved and carried that the secretary prepare suitable blank forms for application for membership to be used in securing new members.

No new business appearing at this time, the evening was spent in social amusements and reminiscent anecdotes and experiences of the members.

August 11, 1916.

Called to order at 9 A. M. at the home of Mrs. Pierce. It appearing that certain members of the Briggs Association had been charged with sundry acts and delinquencies derogatory to the good reputation of the Association and contrary to the Briggs code of laws, for such cases made and provided, and the complaints having been made in writing in each instance with specification of time and place where the offense was committed, each of the accused were called before a magistrate and proper opportunity given the party to ex-

plain their conduct, and failing in this were declared guilty and a proper sentence, in accordance with the magnitude of the crime, was imposed on the criminal by the court and duly carried out by him, after which the character of the several parties was declared satisfactory to the court.

After which the noon hour having arrived, proceedings were adjourned to 8 P. M.

#### Evening Session.

Called to order at 8 P. M. at the home of Mrs. Tinkham. At this time a pine cone party was provided and as the cones were burned in the grate each party called on responded with a story or sentiment and much merriment was produced from the witty remarks.

At the close the Committee on Resolutions made its report as follows, viz:

To the Briggs Association, Greeting:

WHEREAS, The fourth reunion, held at Rochester, Vt., August 9 to 11, inclusive, has been attended by quite a large number of the members who have very greatly enjoyed the pleasant and profitable gathering, we realize that much of this pleasure was the result of the efforts of the local members, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Association be and are hereby extended to the resident members and citizens of Rochester for their efforts in our behalf.

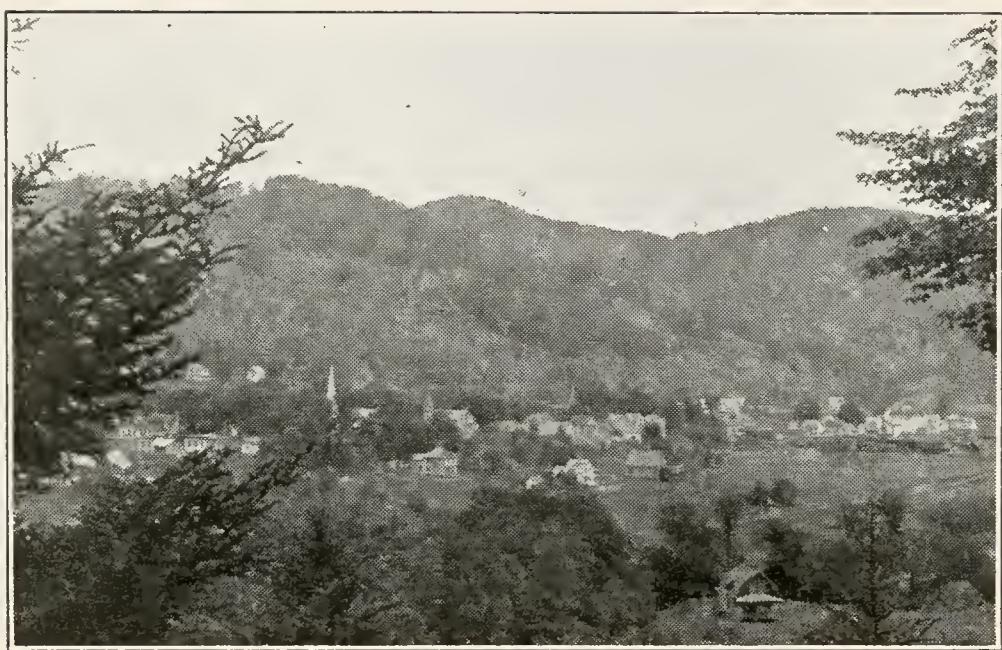
B. B. Dean, Annah E. Dean, Committee.

On motion the same was carried unanimously.

A rising vote of thanks was then given the retiring officers for their efficient service in the interest of the Association, after which, on motion, the Association adjourned sine die.

—Seth Dean, Secretary.





ROCHESTER, VT.

LUCIAN RICHMOND BLACKMER was born in Barnard, Vt., March 6, 1848; died at Webster Groves, Mo., March 28, 1914. He was pre-eminently a self-made business man, having spent his childhood and youth on a farm. He early learned the great business principle of thoughtfulness and self-reliance, factors that entered largely into his successful business career in later life. His technical education was principally acquired in the public schools of Vermont, supplemented by a short term of bookkeeping at Bryant & Stratton's night school in St. Louis. Believing that the west offered better advantages in a business way than the east, in 1866 he came to St. Louis, which city was his home afterward. ~~He married Elvira Jeannette Richmond at Barnard, Vt., in November, 1883.~~

EDWARD L. PIERCE was born in Rochester, Vt., July 26, 1843; died in Rochester, Vt., July 14, 1914. He was an only son of Chester and Caroline Briggs Pierce, being a grandson of Ephraim D. Briggs, one of the pioneer citizens of the town of Rochester, and was a life long resident of the town. His education was acquired in the public schools of Rochester, with a short term in New London, N. H., after which he worked as a clerk in the Briggs store in Rochester and later engaged in mercantile business for himself, in which he was very successful. He ever took an active part in the public affairs of Rochester and was liberal in his support of every enterprise that helped the town or promoted a better civilization.

AUGUSTINE WAITE was born in Stowe, Vt., June 24, 1840; died in Miami, Fla. He was educated in the Vermont public schools and later attended Harvard law school, graduating therefrom in 1862, but instead of entering the legal profession he at once engaged in merchandising, in which line he was unusually successful. He was married to Miss Nancy Ainsworth of Macon county, Ill., in 1863. In October, 1876, he permanently settled in Decatur, Ill., entering actively into the business interests of the city. His health failing, he spent considerable time in travel in this and foreign countries and had gone to Florida for the winter, when death came suddenly.

JOSEPHINE BRIGGS CLARK was born in Rochester, Vt., July 25, 1835; died September 10, 1914. She was married January 21, 1864, to Major Albert Clark, a Civil War veteran and prominent in the legislative affairs of the state and nation. Maj. Clark died at Highgate, Vt., July 16, 1912.



# GENEALOGICAL NOTES OF THE BRIGGS FAMILY

## and Connecting Lines

Compiled by R. L. Richmond, Rutland, Vt., for the Fourth Re-  
union of the Briggs Association in America, held at  
Barnard, Vt., August 14-15-16, 1913.

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My own interest in the Briggs family comes from my grandmother, Joanna Briggs, born March 13, 1787, who married Maj. Lemuel Richmond of Barnard, February 24, 1805, and lived in Barnard, Vt., dying October 16, 1867, at the home of her daughter, Elvira Janette Blackmer, with whom she made her home after the death of her husband, April 16, 1864. I can remember her indistinctly. It was only on special occasions that we boys were allowed to invade the privacy of the big corner room where Grandfather sat in his armed chair, attended by his wife. Grandfather was blind, or nearly so, for some years prior to his death. I can remember one visit I made them which happened to be at the time that Grandfather was having his daily drink; the mug was turned over to me and I was industriously scraping it for the sugar which clung to the bottom when my mother appeared in the room, and I leave it to you to picture the scene. Suffice it to say the remembrance of the event will remain with me always.

Joanna had three brothers, Benjamin, Ephraim Dean, and Asa Barnard, and one sister, Rhoda, and was the daughter of Capt. Ephraim and Rhoda (Whitcomb) Briggs. Capt. Ephraim was born June 30, 1756; married March 19, 1780. Rhoda Whitcomb died August 10, 1829, and is buried in Hannawa Falls, N. Y. Capt. Ephraim obtained his title through service in the militia of Vermont. He was a Revolutionary soldier, serving in Massachusetts, and was either at or near Bunker Hill on the day of the battle. In the war of 1812 he marched to the relief of Plattsburg but I understand did not reach that place in time to take part in the battle. Capt. Ephraim had two sisters, Silva and Eliphal, and was the son of Elijah and Jemima (Dean) Briggs. Elijah was a man with an excellent education for his time, a schoolmaster by profession, living in Berkley, Mass. You have probably seen a copy of his will, which is an interesting document, showing his devotion to his work and to the Congregational church of the orthodox denomination. He was born September 2, 1730; married February 12, 1756 to Jemima Dean, and died May 10, 1795. Elijah Briggs was the eldest child of the three sons and seven daughters of Jonathan and Tabitha (Crane) Briggs; their names were Elijah, Ezra, Keturah, Louis, Cephas, Deborah, Reliance,

Desire, Armittai, Eunice. Jonathan was born October 28, 1707; married according to E. B. Crane's Berkley record, February 20, 1728, and died December 9, 1772. I am unable to tell you the occupation of Jonathan Briggs or anything regarding him further than the names and dates of birth of children. Jonathan Briggs was the son of Thomas and Keturah (Hatch) Briggs. If there were other children of Thomas and Keturah beside Jonathan and his sister Hannah, they do not appear in any record which has come to my attention. I should presume that more will be found. Thomas has a birth given him as 1680, married October, 1702, Keturah Hatch. He was a shoemaker by trade and was blind for many years before his death. Now in Taunton and vicinity Thomas Briggs' were plenty about this time. The Gen. Reg. for 1884, page 271, says Thomas Briggs was a son of William and had a brother William. Clement Briggs' son Jonathan had a son Thomas, but if this list of Jonathan's children is in order of birth there would be trouble in making dates agree. I am inclined to the belief, however, that our Thomas was the son of Jonathan, who was the son of Clement.

Rhoda (Whitcomb) Briggs was the eldest child of Asa and Joanna (Raymond) Whitcomb, born July 22, 1760; the other children were John, Chapman, Anthony, Asa Barnard, Joanna Benjamin and Philocles. Asa Whitcomb was born in Hardwich, Mass., February 29, 1735-6, and married March 15, 1759, Joanna Raymond. You all know the record of this able and energetic ancestor and I will not take the time to record all his activities, but will with your permission read Mr. Baxter's description of Rhoda Whitcomb which was to have appeared in the never to be published History of Windsor County, by William Porter Baxter. Speaking of her he wrote, "In person she was tall and rather spare, with regular features and a decidedly intellectual cast of countenance, while her large dark luminous eyes and snowy hair combined with her dignified and serious manner, gave the children on first introduction an awesome feeling as of some supernatural person which was soon dispelled by her charm of conversation and friendly manner. Her faith in the final salvation of all mankind was strong and nothing grieved her more than the thought that all whom she loved could not share it. She died at the home of her son, Asa Barnard, whose home was hers after the death of her husband, at Hannawa Falls, N. Y. Asa was the son of Nathaniel and Rosilla (Coombs) Whitcomb, born February 29, 1735-6. He, Asa, had five sisters and three brothers, Joanna, Mary, Dorcas, Nathaniel, Rosilla and John by the same mother, and Lot and Content by a second marriage to Rhoda Blackman. Nathaniel lived in Rochester and Hardwich. He was a cooper by trade and held the offices of Assessor and Select man. He was born August 19, 1697; married Rosilla Coombs January 21, 1722-3; married, second, July 27, 1738. He died March 18, 1771. Nathaniel was the second son of James and Mary (Parker) Whitcomb; born May 26, 1752. He had three brothers and two sisters, James, James, Mary, Joanna, and Robert. James Whitcomb lived in Scituate and

Rochester. He was a "set work" cooper by trade and died June 26, 1728.

James Whitcomb was the son of Robert and Mary (Cudworth) Whitcomb, born 1668. He had two brothers, Israel and Robert, and two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth. Of Robert's marriage to Mary Cudworth we have a record that he was fined because the marriage was performed by the Quaker preacher, Henry Hobson, of Rhode Island, and the ceremony was again performed by a Magistrate in due and legal form March 9, 1660. Robert Whitcomb lived in Scituate; his home was at "The Beeches," which was the home of the family for generations. Robert was the son of John and Frances (—) Whitcomb. John was the emigrant ancestor of this line, born about 1588. He came from Dorchester, Somersetshire, Eng., in 1629-30. Was at Dorchester 1633. Scituate 1640. Lancaster 1654. Beside Robert John had the following children: John, Job, Josiah, Jonathan, Cathrine, Abigail, Mary and James. John Whitcomb died September 24, 1662, aged 74 years.

In the Whitcomb Genealogy (which is a fine book), the line is carried back to the time of Henry IV, 1399, with an occasional "probably," or "perhaps," scattered along through it. Mrs. Morey contributed this line in America long before the Whitcomb book was published and almost no corrections have had to be made in it since the record was made.

Jemima Dean, who married Elijah Briggs February 12, 1756, was the daughter of Ephraim and Mary (Allen) Dean. She had five brothers and one sister, Ephraim, Simeon, Joel, Philip, Mary and Ezra. Some of us have been told that Jemima was not always sweet tempered; her disposition may have been just the stimulus needed to develop the character of Elijah. The record of this family was found in the Vital Records of Rehobeth, and no account was given further than the names.

Ephraim had a second wife, Martha Blackman, but the children were by his first wife. The marriage to Mary Allen was performed by the Rev. David Turner May 7, 1724. Ephraim was the youngest of the six children of Ezra and Bethia (Edson) Dean. The others were Bethia, Ezra, Samuel, Seth and Margaret. Ezra had the distinction of being the second child born in Taunton. He married December 17, 1676-8, Bethia Edson and died about 1732. He was the second child of Walter and Eleanor (Cogan) Dean. The others being Benjamin, Joseph, Lydia, Mary and James. Walter was born between 1615-20 in Chard, Eng. Married his wife there and came first to Dorchester, then to Taunton. Freeman in 1638, Selectman, Representative 1640. Was a tanner by trade and a prominent man in the affairs of Taunton, and the colony. In the purchase of Dighton, which was originally a part of Taunton, from the Indians he had a part, the land was conveyed by the Sachem Philip, to a committee of the associates consisting of Walter Dean, James Walker, John Richmond, and Richard Wilkins. He was also one of the proprietors of the Taunton Iron Works, being associated in this business with James Walker, Thomas Gilbert, Richard Williams.

John Richmond and the Leonards. Walter's father never came to America; his name was William and a copy of his will can be found in N. E. H. & G. Reg. Vol. 51. This William's father was Walter and he lived at South Chard, Eng., dying in 1591. The Deane Record was compiled by Josiah H. Drummond, a distinguished genealogist and for a long time connected with the Genealogical Rooms in Somerset Street, Boston.

Joanna Raymond, the other Grandmother of Joanna Briggs, and from whom our Joanna got her name, was the second child of Benjamin and Mercy (Chapman) Raymond. The others were Benjamin, John, Mercy, Thankful, Mary and Deborah. She was born May 11, 1740. She married March 15, 1759, Asa Whitcomb. Her father, Benjamin, was a cooper by trade and lived in Hardwich and Rochester. He died October 2, 1779, and his wife died May 26, 1806.

Benjamin was the second child of William and Deborah (Balch) Raymond, who were married February 8, 1710. The others were William and Daniel. Shortly after the birth of Daniel, Deborah (Balch) Raymond died and William married Tabitha Edwards and had Paul, Mary, Edward, Deborah, Lemuel, Jonathan, and Lemuel again. William lived in Beverly, Rochester and Wareham. He was a prominent man there and Town Clerk for many years. He was the oldest son of William and Mary (Kettle) Raymond. There was one sister older, Mary, and two brothers, Daniel and Paul, younger. The family made their home in Beverly and William died in 1701. He was the oldest child of Capt. William and Hannah (Bishop) Raymond. Capt. William was born 1637; married twice, first to Hannah Bishop, by whom he had our William, Edward, George, Hannah and Abigail; by his second wife, Ruth Hall, whom he married about 1680, he had Mercy and Ebenezer. Capt. William came to America about 1652, lived at Salem and Beverly, was a soldier in King Philip's War, and at the Narragansett fight, Lieut. Commander of Beverly and Wareham troops 1683, Commander in Canadian Expedition 1690, Representative for Beverly 1685-6. He died June 29, 1709. He was probably born in England and was brother of John of Beverly. His father might have been William, who also came to Massachusetts.

The first Great Grandmother of Joanna Briggs we will place in the record is Tabitha Crane. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Mary (—) Crane, born about 1714, married February 20, 1728, Jonathan Briggs. She had two brothers and one sister, Benjamin, Seth and Mary or Mercy. The diary in my possession kept by Elijah Briggs in 1792 abounds in references to his honored mother. The Crane blood is good and I have no doubt that Tabitha Crane deserved all the affection and respect accorded her by her loyal son. There are a few minor points in the Crane record that should be cleared up to make the line satisfactory but Elery B. Crane, the genealogist of the family, assures me it is correct as given.

Benjamin was the son of Henry and Tabitha (Kinsley) Crane, born 1656. Henry had a second wife married about 1683, named Elizabeth. The children of both marriages were besides Benjamin, Stephen, Henry, John, Elizabeth, Ebenezer, Anna, Mary, Mercy and

Samuel. Henry Crane was in Dorchester 1654, Milton 1667. In the Massachusetts Archives, Vol. XXX, page 239, there is an autograph letter of Henry Crane dated May 7. 1677, well written, good spelling and nicely composed. He bought and sold much land, was Selectman of Milton for several years, member of Rev. Peter Thacher's church; his wife was admitted to same from Braintree 1681. He died in Milton, March 21, 1709, aged about 88 years, which would place his birth in 1621, in England.

Mary Allen, the second Great Grandmother of Joanna Briggs, was born August 22, 1700, in Rehobeth, the daughter of Benjamin and Hopestill (Leonard) Allen. Mary was apparently in no hurry to get married as their intentions, Ephraim Dean and Mary Allen, were published November 11, 1723, and they were married May 7, 1724, about six months later, by the Rev. David Towne. Mary had three brothers and four sisters—Joseph, Jemima, John, Ann, Rachel, David and Martha. The record of this family I get from Vital Records of Rehobeth where Benjamin Allen and Hopestill Leonard were married in November 1695. I can tell you nothing regarding this family further than names and dates, as the Vital Records do not abound in stories.

Benjamin was the son of the Benjamin Allen whose wife's name is not known. He was twin with Hannah, born September 7, 1671, and had another sister Abigail. Benjamin, the father of this family, settled in -----, which was wiped out by the Indians in 1675. The Allens escaped and went to his father's home in Salem, where Benjamin died in 1678.

Benjamin was the son of Walter and Rebecca (—) Allen. Walter lived in Newberg 1640. Charlestown 1652, and owned much land at what was called Watertown farms near the boundary. He married twice, first Rebecca, who was the mother of his children, and second Abigail Rogers. Besides Benjamin he had children John Daniel, Joseph and Abigail. Walter was born about 1601 and died July 8, 1681, leaving an estate of 3015 pounds. No record of his marriage has been found in America, so presume he was married and had three children before he came to America.

Rosilla Coombs was a most elusive Grandmother and proved a puzzle to all. Mrs. Morey spent much time trying to trace her in the libraries of Chicago. It was by accident that she was located. Being in correspondence with Geo. A. Gardner of New Bedford the subject was mentioned and he was told that Rosilla seemed a very difficult person to find and he was asked to look for her whenever he had the opportunity. He was in Rochester some time after and remembering my question, searched the records, found she was named Rosama, published as Rose and married as Rosilla. She was the daughter of Anthony Coombs; name of mother not known. Anthony had other children, John, Hannah, Johanne, Joshua, Francis and Jane. Tradition says Rosilla was of part French blood. She was born November 23, 1702, and married January 21, 1722-3 Nathaniel Whitcomb. She died March 8, 1737.

Anthony Coombs, the father, was probably the emigrant, as

no further record can be found. He cannot be connected with Francis Coombs of Plymouth, a hope Mrs. Morey often expressed as that would have given you a Mayflower ancestor, Degory Priest.

Mary Chapman, the last Great Grandmother of Joanna Briggs, was the daughter of William and Deborah (—) Chapman. She married Benjamin Raymond and is only a name to me. There is a lot of Chapman matter to look up and it ought not to be difficult to find this family when the opportunity arrives to attend to it.

Keturah Hatch, who married in 1702, Thomas Briggs, was the Gr Gr Grandmother of Joanna. She was the daughter of Thomas Hatch, who married Sarah Ellms of Scituate in 1662. She had four brothers and six sisters—Thomas, Rhodolphus, Joseph, Sarah, Lydia, Hannah, Mary, Margaret, Abigail and Jeremiah. Thomas, the father, died in 1686. He was the son of Thomas Hatch, the emigrant, who settled in Scituate. The Transcript of October 19, 1903, said that this earlier Thomas and William Hatch were brothers, and were reported to have been the sons of Sir Walter Hatch, who suffered the loss of title and estate because of adherence to Puritan principles. Thomas Hatch, the emigrant, had children, William, Thomas, Hannah and Alice. He died early, probably about 1646.

Deane's History of Scituate gives me no account of the Hatch family. Name of wife not known.

Mary, the wife of Benjamin Crane, not known.

Bethia Edson, who married Ezra Deane December 17, 1678, was the daughter of Deacon Samuel and Susannah (Orcutt) Edson. She was the youngest child, born 1653, and had four sisters and three brothers—Susannah, Sarah, Elizabeth, Samuel, Mary, Joseph and Josiah. Samuel Edson came in 1634; was in Salem 1638; Bridgewater 1650; Freeman 1639. On forming the Town of Bridgewater he and Jos. Keith were the only men in the town called Master. Deacon 1664 till death. Built the first mill in Bridgewater. Was member of the War Council of the Colony 1666 to 1678. Representative thirteen years and held many other offices of trust. See Plymouth Colony Records, Vols. 3, 4, 5, 6. He died July 9, 1692, aged 81 years.

Of Hopestill Leonard, who married Benjamin Allen in 1695, there is no further record. The Leonards were a prominent family in Taunton and some day we will have the record. Some years ago there was quite an excitement aroused over a Leonard estate in England which carried a title, but nothing came of it because of the indifference of some most intimately concerned, these men seemingly preferring the independence and honor earned by their own ability in America to inherited honors in England.

Mary Parker married James Whitcomb of Scituate. I have no other record of this lady. Some genealogist to whom I wrote regarding her gave me a line which he said he obtained by the process of elimination. He assumed first that she belonged to the Scituate Parkers, and cutting off those who could not possibly have been her parents, narrowed the choice down to, as he said, our family. Dean's History of Scituate gave the children of this family and no Mary

appears in the list, so we will not attempt to give her ancestry.

The wife of Anthony Coombs I have already told you cannot be found.

Deborah Balch, who married William Raymond February 8, 1710-11, was born June 6, 1693, the daughter of the third marriage of Benjamin Balch, to Grace Mallett; Benjamin married first Sarah Gardner about 1650, and married second Widow Abigail Clark February 5, 1689, and third Grace Mallett March 15, 1691-2; this last marriage ceremony was performed by Simeon Bradstreet, the Governor. She had seven brothers and four sisters—Samuel, Benjamin, John, Joseph, Freeborn, Sarah, Abigail, Ruth, Jonathan, David and Lydia. Benjamin Balch was the oldest child of John Balch and his wife, Margary; the other children of this family were John and Freeborn.

John Balch, born 1577, came from Somersetshire to America with Capt. Robert Gorges, 1623; settled at Salem; one of the original members of first church; Freeman 1631; granted farm of 200 acres at the head of Bass River 1635-6; moved to the farm 1638 and lived there till his death 1648. He had a second wife, Agnes Patch, who survived him, dying in 1657, after a long illness.

No knowledge of the Deborah who married William Chapman, the Gr Gr Gr Grandmother of Joanna Briggs.

Sarah Ellms was the oldest child of Rhodolphus and Cathrine (Whitcomb) Ellms, born September 29, 1645; the other children were Mary, Jcanna, Hannah, John, Joseph, Waitstill, Jonathan and Rhodolphus. Sarah married 1662 Thomas Hatch. Rhodolphus Ellms came in the planter 1635, aged 15 years. Was one of the Connihassett partners 1646. He was son of that widow, Sarah Ellms, of Parish St. Saviors, Southwark County, Surrey, Eng., and by her will received a legacy of 10 pounds. The family live in Scituate.

Mary Cudworth, who married Robert Whitcomb, was the oldest daughter of Gen. James Cudworth, born July 23, 1637. The other children were James, Jonathan, Israel, Joanna, Hannah, Jonathan and probably others. James Cudworth held the highest political and military honors of any man in the family. In a literary way a letter of his protesting against the action of the Justice of Plymouth Colony in persecuting the Quakers seem to Steadman and Hutchinson worthy of preservation as a sample of the best composition and thought of the time. You will find this letter in Vol. 1, Library of American Literature.

James Cudworth came to America probably on the Charles, 1632. He held all the ordinary offices and was Captain of his militia company and Justice on the Bench with Thomas Prince (the Governor), Mr. Collins, Capt. Willett, Capt. Winslow, and Mr. John Alden, when trouble came. He could not agree with his associates in restricting religious liberty and was disgraced as far as in their power he could be disgraced. He was thrown from the bench and stripped of his military honors. He went to his farm in Scituate and remained there in practical obscurity for twenty years. Windsor in his history says: "There were a few of the prominent men of the time who dared to protest boldly against the unwise action of the Magistrates and

of such none were more prominent than James Cudworth of Plymouth Colony and Robert Pike of Salisbury." Palfrey's History of New England, Vol. 3, Page 98, says in regard to his restoration that Winslow was a man of less rigid temperament than his predecessors. By his influence James Cudworth, whose tenderness for the Quakers had cost him his high standing in the Colony, was restored to a place among the Magistrates. He was a popular man in those days and honors were continually being thrust upon him. He was made assistant to the Governor 1674; Commander of Plymouth Colony forces in King Philip's war, with the rank of General, 1675; Sub-Commissioner for Plymouth Colony 1678-9; Commissioner 1681; Deputy Governor 1681, and died while on a mission to England for the Colony in 1681. In the mean time he refused some other very flattering offers of political and military preferment. He was a man we can respect all the time. For twenty years he gave up all hope of preferment because of a principle; for twenty years of the best of his life he remained a practical outcast on his farm in Scituate. He had ability, but not the ability to stem the tide of ignorance, intolerance and persecution which swept over New England at that time. His influence must have been felt and he was not forgotten when Winslow and more humane counsels prevailed. Thank God for men like James Cudworth that Plymouth Colony has no such dark page in her annals as you will find in the records of Massachusetts Bay Colony. No men or women were burned or hung or drowned in Plymouth Colony because of witchcraft or any other form of madness. Savage, in a note, says James Cudworth married a daughter of Rev. Dr. Stoughton of England.

Mary Kettle, who married William Raymond about 1687, was born March 5, 1660, the fourth child of John and Elizabeth (Allen) Kettle, who lived in Gloucester and Salem. The other children were John, William, Elizabeth, Samuel and James. John Kettle came in conflict with the authorities on sundry occasions and the record reads that he was "a rather wild lad." A reputation for wildness could be easily acquired in those days and far be it from me to criticise an ancestor because some magistrate fined him for Sabbath breaking in 1641.

The Register for January, 1898, has a short account of one John who spent the last years of his life in Salem, dying there October 12, 1685, owning 300 acres of land near Nashua. A John Kettle served in King Philip's war.

Of Grace Mallett I have no further record.

Cathrine Whitcomb, who married Rhodolphus Ellms, was the Gt. Gt. Gt. Grandmother of Joanna Briggs, a daughter of John Whitcomb, the emigrant, and sister of Robert Whitcomb, who married Mary Cudworth. This is the first time in this family that I find a marriage of cousins in any degree. Rhoda Whitcomb was the Gr Gr Gr grandchild and Ephraim Briggs the Gr. Gr. Gr. Gr. grandchild of John Whitcomb, so they were fourth or fifth cousins.

Hannah Bishop, born April 12, 1646, who married William Raymond about 1665-6, has an interesting story. She was the second

child of Edward and Hannah Bishop. She lived with her parents in Salem during the time of the Witchcraft delusion. She had two brothers, Samuel and Edward, and one sister, Mary. Her mother died after 1651 and her father married again Bridget Oliver in 1680. Bridget was charged with practicing witchcraft and was imprisoned but in some way escaped further punishment at that time, but in April, 1692, both Edward and Bridget were apprehended and in June 1692, she was hanged. Edward's property was seized at this time but Edward was spared and as the old record says, "after being redeemed he went to Rehobeth, where no witches were thought of." Edward married for a third wife Sarah Wild.

Elizabeth Allen, born September, 1634, third child of William and Elizabeth (Bradley) Allen, had brothers and sisters, Persis, Samuel, Deborah, Bethia, Omsiphorous, William and Jonathan. William came to Cape Ann, now Gloucester, for and with the Merchants Company in 1624, carrying on the fishing business for about three years. He lived in Salem till 1640. He was a carpenter and built the first frame house in Salem, where he resided. Influential and enterprising, he died May 10, 1678. His will may be found First book Essex Probate Records, page 72.









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